Circuit bench of Kolkata High Court at Jalpaiguri

409. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of setting up of a circuit bench of the Kolkata High Court at Jalpaiguri; and

(b) the steps initiated by Government to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI. K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (b) A complete proposal from the State of West Bengal with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the Kolkata, for setting up of a bench of Kolkata High Court was received in the year 2000. The setting up of the permanent bench at Jalpaiguri in pursuance to the proposal, is awaiting confirmation of the infrastructural arrangements for the bench by the Kolkata High Court.

Bringing widow homes under National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism etc.

410. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism is only providing their care services for the persons with autism, cerebral palsy mental retardation and multiple disabilities;

(b) whether Government are aware about the prevailing pathetic conditions of widows of widow-homes at Brindaban in U.P;

(c) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to bring the widow-homes under the purview of the Trust in order to provide help to the widows to lead a meaningful life; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India is providing assistance through Government of Uttar Pradesh under the 'SWADHAR', a Scheme for women in difficult circumstances. Grant is also provided for the rehabilitation of widows at Brindavan under the Schemes of General Grant-in-Aid